

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO THE ASIA FOUNDATION C/O DR. HAYDN

WILLIAMS ASIAF SAN FRANCISCO

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PLEASE DELIVER BY 4:00 P.M. SAN FRANCISCO TIME.

DR. WILLIAMS, DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS, FRIENDS:

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY TO  
YOU MY VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CONFERENCE  
-- ESPECIALLY SINCE A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS  
AND FORMER STUDENTS FROM MANY NATIONS OF ASIA HAVE COME  
TO SAN FRANCISCO TO ADDRESS TOGETHER AN ISSUE WHICH IS AS  
IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS AT THE OUTSET OF THE MODERN AGE--  
THE MEANING OF INDEPENDENCE.

IN EVERY QUARTER OF THE WORLD TODAY MEN AND WOMEN  
STILL HOLD IN COMMON THAT DREAM OF SELF-DETERMINATION  
WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA. IT IS AN IDEAL WHICH HAS LIFTED THE SPIRITS  
OF MANKIND FOR TWO CENTURIES, AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO  
DO SO FOR AS FAR AHEAD AS WE CAN SEE.

BUT THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE IN OUR TIME--INDEED  
IN THE LAST FEW YEARS--HAS TAKEN ON A NEW AND COMPLEX  
DIMENSION. THERE IS NOW A NEARLY UNIVERSAL RECOGNITION  
THAT DECISIONS--MILITARY, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL--

TAKEN FAR AWAY CAN HAVE AN IMMENSE AND INESCAPABLE IMPACT

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ON ALL OUR LIVES IN WHATEVER NATION WE LIVE, INDEPENDENT

OR NOT. THUS WHILE WE SEEK TO CREATE OR TO CONSOLIDATE  
OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WE KNOW AS WELL THAT NONE OF  
US STANDS ALONE--THAT WE ARE ALL PART OF A GREATER HUMAN  
COMMUNITY ON A SHRINKING PLANET.

YET AS WE CONFRONT THIS NEW REALITY, ONE FACT REMAINS  
CLEAR: INDEPENDENCE IS THE BEDROCK OF ALL WE HOPE TO  
ACCOMPLISH IN THE REALM OF INTERDEPENDENCE. IT OFFERS  
OUR NATIONS, VARIED AS THEY MAY BE IN HISTORY OR IN  
THEIR DESTINIES, THE ELEMENTS NEEDED FOR JUST AND  
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CITIZENSHIP; THE STRENGTH THAT  
PERMITS POSITIVE COOPERATION AMONG SOVEREIGN EQUALS;  
THE CONFIDENCE TO UPHOLD THE FREEDOMS OF THOUGHT AND  
ACTION SO NEEDED IF WE ARE TO SOLVE THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS  
OF TOMORROW; AND THE IDEALS WHICH LEAD US TO REACH OUT TO  
THOSE PEOPLES AND LANDS WHO STILL YEARN FOR LIBERTY AND  
FOR A FAIR SHARE IN THE GLOBAL STRUCTURE OF RELATIONS.  
AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, IT IS "THE GENIUS OF INDEPENDENCE"  
WHICH CAN BEST ENSURE US AGAINST THE FORCES OF TYRANNY  
AND BEST PREPARE US TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER TO FURTHER  
THE DREAM WE ALL SHARE FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN.

HENRY A. KISSINGER. HABIB

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